

CLASSIFICATION **SECRET**

COUNTRY East Germany REPORT

TOPIC Military Activities in the Area of the Third Gds Mees Army

EVALUATION _____ PLACE OBTAINED _____

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DATE OF CONTENT _____

DATE OBTAINED _____ DATE PREPARED 16 September 1955

REFERENCES _____

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) _____

REMARKS

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This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. Between 19 and 27 August 1955, the Jaeger Kaserne (3341) in Luebben was occupied by a tank unit of at least 800 soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. Between 90 and 95 percent of the windows of the installation were lighted at dusk. Ten canvas-covered tanks were repeatedly seen in front of the tank sheds in the southwest section of the installation during the period under review. Five 37-mm AA guns were located in the center of the barracks yard. Between 0950 and 1130 on 23 August, 4 T-34/85 tanks were seen clearing obstacles in the area north of Treppendorf. Except for daily practice drives in the Treppendorf training area, the unit did not leave the post during the period under review.¹

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2. _____ small groups of soldiers had continually been discharged during the preceding months. These groups were reportedly assembled in East-Berlin and retransferred to the USSR.²

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3. On 25 August, 3 T-34/85 tanks and about 8 motor vehicles were seen in the yard of Jaeger Kaserne in Luebben.¹ On 25 August, the cantonment north of Luebben was occupied. Some 15 to 20 trucks, about 5 tank trucks and, in the detached sheds, 12 to 15 elevated barrels, presumably of mortars, were observed.

4. Between 12 and 25 August, the barracks installations of the Wittenberg post were still occupied by only a few soldiers, presumably guard personnel. A few tanks, probably in need of repair, were towed to the installation by salvage tanks. The units from the post were still stationed in the training area on the Elbe River in the Gallin area. River-crossing practices with tanks _____ there. No bridge _____ were seen. On the _____ ises were held, _____ restricted even for pe_____. On other days, _____ stationed in the woods between _____ and Rassdorf.

5. At about 2200 on 19 August, an engineer unit constructed a pontoon bridge across the Elbe River near the Gallin Faehrhaus (Elbe River) kilometermark 205). After 0030 of 20 August, tanks and trucks continually crossed the bridge.

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6. Prior to the afternoon of 18 August and between 23 and 25 August, the Forst Zinna training grounds was restricted. In the morning on 18 August and on 23 and 24 August, artillery firing was held there. On the latter 2 days, 2 M-13 rocket launchers, 8 x 122-mm field howitzers, 24 x 100-mm AT guns and numerous trucks [redacted] were observed. On 26 August, the area was vacant.

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7. Between 16 and 26 August, the following observations were made at the Forst Zinna-Werder-Markendorf area:
At about 0530 on 16 August, 22 T-54 tanks, 6 rocket launchers, 5 radio trucks, 1 field kitchen, and 3 trucks [redacted] each occupied by 15 soldiers carrying full field equipment, came from the direction of Heidehof and proceeded toward Mehlsdorf. At 1430, 1 truck, 9 tank trucks and 1 four-wheel armored personnel carrier were seen on Highway No.101 en route toward Jueterbog. The tank trucks were apparently empty. When the column returned after a few hours, the tanks appeared to be full. The column was observed at the same time on several days.⁶ At about 0800 on 17 August, 5 sedans [redacted] came from the direction of Heidehof and proceeded toward Forst Zinna. Several officers wore artillery insignia.⁷ At about 1145 on 18 August, 5 T-54 tanks, 18 T-34 tanks, 16 trucks towing 122-mm field howitzers, 3 M-31 and 6 M-13 rocket launchers, 12 sidecar motorcycles, and 1 sedan came from the direction of Forst Zinna and proceeded toward Heidehof. At about 1030 on 26 August, 8 T-34 tanks and 7 signal vehicles [redacted] were seen on Highway No.101 en route toward Kelsenburg.

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1. [redacted] Comment. The Jaeger Kaserne in Luebben appeared to be occupied as previously. The post training grounds of the Luebben post is located in the area north of Treppendorf, west of Luebben.

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2. [redacted] Comment. Small groups of specialists were possibly discharged ahead of time.

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3. [redacted] Comment. The cantonment north of Luebben is presumably the camp about 800 meters northwest of Luebben, which was first observed in the fall of 1952. It is probably used as summer camp by the 616th MorthRegt of the 9th Mecs Div. quartered in the Infanterie Kaserne (3343) in Luebben.

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4. [redacted] Comment. The bulk of the 6th Gds Tank Div. has again been stationed on the Elbe River in the training area southeast of Wittenberg since 3 August. [redacted] River-crossing on pontoon bridges was apparently practiced exclusively at night, while river-crossing with ferries was also observed throughout the day. The motor-vehicle [redacted] belongs to the Third Gds Mecs Army and was previously observed in the Flak Kaserne (3583) in Wittenberg.

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5. [redacted] Comment. The information does not allow an identification of the firing units, particularly because of the heavy occupation of the training grounds at the period mentioned. The truck [redacted] belongs to army troops of the Fourth Gds Mecs Army from the Bernau post. However, transfer of units of the 71st Light Arty Brig from Bernau was not observed at that time.

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6. [redacted] Comment. These were probably units of the 7th Gds Tank Div. The motor vehicle [redacted] belong to the Third Gds Mecs Army.

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7. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] an artillery unit of the 6th Gds Tank Div. was also stationed at the Forst Zinna-Jueterbog training grounds.

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